

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

9. **(Currently amended)** A method for collecting acrylic acid comprising: ~~the step of collecting acrylic acid using an aqueous medium introduced into a collection device from a reaction gas, comprising acrylic acid obtained by catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of propane, propylene, and/or acrolein, and introduced into the collection device,~~
— ~~wherein the collecting step comprises:~~

introducing ~~the~~ a reaction gas into ~~the collection~~ a distillation device, ~~the reaction gas comprising acrylic acid obtained by catalytic vapor-phase oxidation of propane, propylene, and/or acrolein; and~~

introducing ~~the~~ an aqueous medium into the ~~collection~~ distillation device and distilling water from the ~~collection~~ distillation device to collect acrylic acid ~~into~~ in the aqueous medium;

~~wherein the method further comprises the step of adjusting at least one selected from the group consisting of an amount of water distilled from the collection distillation device, an amount of the reaction gas supplied before collection, an amount of the aqueous medium used, and a water content in the aqueous medium,~~

wherein said step of adjusting is conducted while maintaining the following condition: $(B/A) < 1.25$, wherein A represents a weight fraction of acrylic acid to all condensable ingredients in the reaction gas before collecting acrylic acid and B represents a weight fraction of acrylic acid in bottoms of the ~~collection~~ distillation device ~~used in the step of collecting.~~

10. **(Previously presented)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 9, wherein the aqueous medium is an aqueous solution that comprises at least 90 wt% of water.

11. **(Currently amended)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 9, wherein the ~~collection~~ distillation device comprises a collection column.

12. **(Currently amended)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 11, wherein the collection is performed while a temperature of a top of the collection column is kept within ~~a predetermined range~~ $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$.

13. **(Currently amended)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 10, wherein the ~~collection~~ distillation device comprises a collection column.

14. **(Currently amended)** The method for collecting acrylic acid as described in claim 13, wherein the collection is performed while a temperature of a top of the collection column is kept within ~~a predetermined range~~ $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Claims 15-16 **(Cancelled)**